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To: YMP\_SR@ymp.gov  
cc:

Subject: nuclear waste shipping

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction



- C.htm

October 3, 2001

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Jon Lawrence  
590 Harper Pl.  
St. Louis, MO 63119  
314-968-3854

Carol Hanlon  
U. S. Dep't. of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

In June of this year my wife and I sent our three daughters off to grade school in the St. Louis suburb of Webster Groves. It was their first time ever walking to school on their own. Their excitement at this new demonstration of parental trust soon gave way to fear and dismay (on their part and ours) when a train, fortunately carrying only coal, derailed and crashed at a crossing less than a quarter of a mile from our house. Luckily, no one was hurt, even though a train car lay on its side in the spot where cars often stop to wait at this crossing. I'm relieved and happy to be able to say that our daughters had not yet reached this area when the derailment happened.

The railway where this near miss occurred is the Union Pacific Railroad, slated to carry nuclear waste shipments from the East if the Yucca Mountain Site is approved. Imagine how this story might have ended if this had been a trainload of highly radioactive nuclear power plant fuel rods. After seeing the twisted steel of the tracks and cars from the derailment, I find little solace in the reassurances about the shipping casks being able to withstand a crash. Additionally, highways I-44 (a mile from our house) and I-70 are also to be used for truckloads of waste. I'm writing to you to add my voice to those who oppose this shipment plan, and to appeal to you and your staff to press for further study to find other solutions before any shipments are begun. There is a real groundswell of opinion against this shipping plan building up in the St. Louis area. I'm sure it's the same all along the proposed routes.

I'll never again think that a derailment would not happen near us. If it does, will it be a single event or an ongoing nightmare? You, and the Dep't. of Energy, may be able to help decide this. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to get in touch with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Jon Lawrence  
jonlaw151@aol.com